

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FBIE-00 L-02 VO-03 SCA-01 CPR-01

JUSE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 EB-07 COME-00 SY-04 PRS-01

PA-01 USIA-06 RSC-01 /052 W

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R 201055Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5883

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL ZURICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 7085

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BGEN PFOR GH

SUBJECT: JOHN ACKAH BLAY-MIEZAH

REF: (A) ACCRA 7033 (B) ACCRA 7080

1. BOTH MORNING PAPERS DEC 20 CARRY STORY OF BLAY-MIEZAH'S
ARREST PROMINENTLY, TIMES ON FRONT PAGE UNDER HEADLINE
"SABOTEURS CAN'T STOP ME."

2. TIMES VERSION, FOLLOWING HEADLINE THEME, STATES, "AMERICAN
AGENTS AND PEOPLE WHO WANT TO STOP THE COUNTRY'S ONWARD MOVE
TO PROSPERITY, HE (BLAY-MIEZAH) SAID, HOWEVER, ARE WORKING
AGAINST HIM TO PREVENT HIM FROM CONTRIBUTING TO THE NATIONAL
EFFORTS."

3. TIMES ALSO HAS FULL-LENGTH EDITORIAL ENTITLED, "DON'T USE THE
NAME OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE IN VAIN," IN WHICH IT IS STATED THAT
THE PAPER WAS "TIPPED OFF" BY A SOURCE DESCRIBING ITSELF AS
THE CASTLE. PAPER WAS TOLD TO "COVER STORY AND HIGHLIGHT" THE
PROSECUTION CASE. EDITORIAL SUGGESTS ONE OF TWO THINGS MAY BE
TAKING PLACE: (1) CALLER WAS POSING AS REPRESENTATIVE OF CASTLE,
OR (2) CALLER REPRESENTED ONLY ONE FACTION WITHIN CASTLE AND
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NOT ACTUALLY SPEAKING FOR GOVERNMENT HOUSE. PUBLIC IS WARNED

TO BE CAREFUL OF "YOU MIGHT BE WORKING, NOT FOR THE CASTLE,
BUT FOR PERSONS WITH SELFISH PRIVATE INTERESTS."

4. GRAPHIC PLAYS STORY AS STRAIGHT COURT REPORTING. NOTES
(AS DOES TIMES IN ITS STORY AFTER LEAD-IN MENTIONED PARA 2 ABOVE)
BLAY-MIEZAH ACCUSED OF JUMPING BAIL IN AUGUST, 1971, AND HE IS
TO APPEAR BEFORE COURT IN CAPE COAST DECEMBER 20.

5. IN DEC 19 ISSUE SMALL DAILY HERALD TRIBUNE, PUBLISHED IN
TAKORADI, CARRIED LENGTHY ARTICLE BY "JUNKETING REPORTER"
(PRESUMABLY EDITOR CHRIS ASHER) WHICH GENERALLY FOLLOWED LINE
OF TIMES AND GRAPHIC BUT EMPHASIZED MORE SHARPLY ALLEGED USG
HINDRANCE TO HIS RECEIVING INHERITANCE. "HE (BLAY-MIEZAH)
DENIED ALLEGATION OF HIS INVOLVEMENT IN FRAUDULENT CHECKS IN
THE US AND CLAIMED THAT THE CIA AND THE FBI HAD COLLUDED WITH
OTHER GHANAIS TO DISCREDIT HIM."

6. KISSI-AFARE, EDITOR ECHO, TOLD PAO DEC 18 HE WAS DROPPING
PURSUIT OF STORY. HINTED HE HAD BEEN SUBJECT TO SOME PRESSURE
FROM LOCAL BUSINESSMEN INVOLVED WITH BLAY-MIEZAH.

7. VISIT, IF ANY, OF COPPOLINO HAS RAISED QUESTIONS. BEBRAH
AND OKAI HAVE TOLD EMBASSY HE WAS NOT IN ACCRA, BUT WE HAVE
EXTRACT OF AIRPORT DEPARTURE FORM SHOWING MATHEW COPPOLINO
DEPARTED ACCRA DEC 13 VIA PA 185 AFTER TWO-DAY VISIT. PASSPORT
NUMBER GIVE AS B-057147; ADDRESS, 3201 S. 17TH ST., PHILADELPHIA.
REQUEST DEPT CHECK THESE DETAILS TO DETERMINE IF THEY CORRESPOND
TO DATA ON COPPOLINO.

8. COMMENT: UNLESS CASTLE DOES IN FACT DIRECT PRESS TO TREAT
STORY AS STRAIGHT REPORTING AND TO DROP ALLEGATION US AND GHANAIS
"SELFISH PRIVATE INTERESTS" TRYING TO DO BLAY-MIEZAH OUT OF
RIGHTFUL "INHERITANCE," WE CAN EXPECT CONTINUING FLAK. WE
ASSUME CASTLE IS NOW UNANIMOUS IN WISHING TO PROSECUTE
BLAY-MIEZAH AT LEAST ON BAIL-JUMPING CHARGE AND THROUGH THIS
CHARGE TO DISCREDIT HIM.
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